AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens device ~~as claimed in claim 1,~~ comprising:

a zoom lens system having a plurality of lens units; and

an image sensor converting an optical image formed by the zoom lens system, into electric image data,

wherein the plurality of lens units includes, from an object side:

a first lens unit;

a second lens unit; and

a third lens unit;

wherein lens surfaces constituting the zoom lens system are all refracting surfaces,

wherein zooming is performed by varying the distances between the lens units, and

wherein following conditions are satisfied:

~~wherein the zoom lens systems of the embodiments satisfy the following condition:~~

$0.1 < T23w/fw < 1.5$ and

$3.1 \leq ft/fw \leq 5.5$

where T23w is an axial distance between the second lens unit and the third lens unit in the shortest focal length condition, [[and]] fw is the focal length of the zoom lens system in the shortest focal length condition, and ft is the focal length of the zoom lens system in the longest focal length condition.

3. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens device ~~as claimed in claim 1,~~ comprising:

a zoom lens system having a plurality of lens units; and

an image sensor converting an optical image formed by the zoom lens system, into electric image data,

wherein lens surfaces constituting the zoom lens system are all refracting surfaces,

wherein zooming is performed by varying the distances between the lens units, and

wherein following conditions are satisfied:

~~wherein the zoom lens systems of the embodiments satisfy the following condition:~~

$0.6 < Tsum/fw < 2.6$ and

$3.1 \leq ft/fw \leq 5.5$

where Tsum is the sum of the axial thicknesses of all the lens elements included in the zoom lens system, ~~system; and~~ fw is the focal length of the zoom lens system in the shortest focal length condition, and ft is the focal length of the zoom lens system in the longest focal length condition.

4. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens device as claimed in claim [[1,]] 2, wherein the ~~plurality of lens units includes a~~ first lens unit ~~consisting~~ consists of a single negative lens element at a most object side of the plurality of lens units; and wherein:

$v1 > 45$

where v1 is the Abbe number of the single negative lens element of the first lens unit.

5. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens device as claimed in claim [[1,]] 2, wherein the ~~plurality of lens units includes a~~ first lens unit is located at a most object side of the plurality of lens units and wherein the first lens unit moves so as to draw a locus of a U-turn convex to the image side in zooming from the shortest focal length condition to the longest focal length condition.

6. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens device as claimed in claim [[1,]] 2, wherein the ~~plurality of lens units includes a~~ first lens unit is located at a most object side of the plurality of lens units and wherein the first lens unit includes at least one aspherical surface.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens device as claimed in claim [[1,]] 2, wherein the ~~zoom lens system consists of, from the object side:~~

~~a first lens unit;~~

~~a second lens unit; and~~

~~a~~ third lens unit ~~having~~ has a positive optical power.

9. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens device as claimed in claim [[1,]] 2, further comprising: ~~wherein the zoom lens system consists of, from the object side:~~

~~a first lens unit;~~

~~a second lens unit;~~

~~a third lens unit having a positive optical power; and~~

a fourth lens unit having a positive optical power, and

wherein said third lens unit has a positive optical power.

10. (Currently Amended) A digital camera comprising:

a zoom lens device including a zoom lens system and an image sensor;

the image sensor converting an optical image formed by the zoom lens system, into electric image data,

the zoom lens system having a plurality of lens units including a first lens unit disposed on the most object side and consisting of a single negative lens element; and

wherein lens surfaces constituting the zoom lens system are all refracting surfaces,

wherein zooming is performed by varying the distances between the lens units, and

wherein following conditions are satisfied:

$3.1 \leq ft/fw \leq 5.5$ and

$0.6 < Tsum/fw < 2.6$

where fw is the focal length of the zoom lens system in the shortest focal length condition, [[and]] ft is the focal length of the zoom lens system in the longest focal length

condition, and Tsum is the sum of the axial thicknesses of all the lens elements included in the zoom lens system.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens system ~~as claimed in claim 11,~~ comprising, from an object side:

a first lens unit;

a second lens unit; and

a third lens unit,

wherein the following conditions are [[is]] satisfied:

$0.1 < T23w/fw < 1.5$ and

$3.1 \leq ft/fw \leq 5.5$

where T23w is an axial distance between a most image side of the second lens unit and a most object side of the third lens unit in the shortest focal length condition, fw is the focal length of the zoom lens system in the shortest focal length condition, and ft is the focal length of the zoom lens system in the longest focal length condition.

13. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens system ~~as claimed in claim 11,~~ comprising, from an object side:

a first lens unit;

a second lens unit; and

a third lens unit,

wherein the following conditions are [[is]] satisfied:

$0.6 < Tsum/fw < 2.6$ and

$3.1 \leq ft/fw \leq 5.5$

where Tsum is the sum of the axial thicknesses of all lens elements in the zoom lens system, fw is the focal length of the zoom lens system in the shortest focal length condition, and ft is the focal length of the zoom lens system in the longest focal length condition.

14. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim [[11,]] 12, wherein the first lens unit consists of a single negative lens element, and wherein the following condition is satisfied:

$v1 > 45$

where v1 is the Abbe number of the single negative lens element.

15. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim [[11,]] 12, wherein the first lens unit moves so as to draw a locus of a U-turn convex to the image side in zooming from the shortest focal length condition to the longest focal length condition.

16. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim [[11,]] 12, wherein the first lens unit includes at least one aspherical surface.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim [[11,]] 12, wherein the third lens unit has a positive optical power.

19. (Withdrawn) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 18 further comprising: a fourth lens unit having a positive optical power.

20. (New) A zoom lens device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the plurality of lens units includes a first lens unit consisting of a single negative lens element at a most object side of the plurality of lens units; and wherein:

$v1 > 45$

where v1 is the Abbe number of the single negative lens element of the first lens unit.

21. (New) A zoom lens device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the plurality of lens units includes a first lens unit at a most object side of the plurality of lens units and wherein the first lens unit moves so as to draw a locus of a U-turn convex to the image side in zooming from the shortest focal length condition to the longest focal length condition.

22. (New) A zoom lens device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the plurality of lens units includes a first lens unit at a most object side of the plurality of lens units and wherein the first lens unit includes at least one aspherical surface.

23. (New) A zoom lens device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the zoom lens system includes, from the object side:

a first lens unit;

a second lens unit; and

a third lens unit having a positive optical power.

24. (New) A zoom lens device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the zoom lens system includes, from the object side:

a first lens unit;

a second lens unit;

a third lens unit having a positive optical power; and

a fourth lens unit having a positive optical power.

25. (New) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 13,

wherein the first lens unit consists of a single negative lens element, and

wherein the following condition is satisfied:

$\nu 1 > 45$

where $\nu 1$ is the Abbe number of the single negative lens element.

26. (New) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the first lens unit moves so as to draw a locus of a U-turn convex to the image side in zooming from the shortest focal length condition to the longest focal length condition.

27. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the first lens unit includes at least one aspherical surface.

28. (New) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the third lens unit has a positive optical power.

29. (New) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 28 further comprising:

a fourth lens unit having a positive optical power.